

## Quantitative Benefits

In addition to the qualitative benefits the airport provides, a recent study quantified the economic impacts of the airport to the local community. As shown in the adjacent table, the total economic impact of the airport includes on- and off-airport businesses, visitor spending, and the spin-off effects of those impacts.

**On-airport impacts** represent economic activities that would not occur if the airport did not exist. They include payroll, operating and capital expenditures made by the airport, airlines, FBO's, maintenance facilities, ground transportation, etc.

**Off-airport impacts** represent financial transactions that occur primarily off-airport and are associated with visitor spending. These expenditures may include items such as lodging, food, entertainment, and retail purchases.

**Spin-off impacts** are calculated using impact multipliers, which are used to reflect the recycling of dollars through the economy.

**Air dependent business impacts** represent area businesses that are dependent on the airport for just-in-time shipping, a high degree of corporate travel, or specialized airport facilities and services such as free trade zones, U.S. Customs, and U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Services. These businesses would relocate or suffer substantial loss if the airport were not available. This impact is not included in traditional economic impact methodology and is provided as an indicator of the importance of the airport to area businesses.

Direct Economic Impacts		Spin-Off Economic Impacts	Air Dependent Businesses
On-Airport	Off-Airport		
FAA, Other Government Airport Management Aircraft Maintenance Vendors Retail & Restaurant Car Rental Parking Other Ground Transportation Fixed Base Operators	<u>Visitor Dependent Businesses</u> Hotels Retail & Restaurants Travel Agents Convention Centers Tourist Destinations	Suppliers of Materials & Services to Airports, Air Dependent Businesses and Visitor Dependent Businesses Respending of Worker Income Consumer Product and Service Sales	Local Businesses that depend on the Airport for just-in-time shipping, a high degree of corporate travel, or specialized airport facilities and services.
36 Jobs \$1,321,000 in Payroll \$2,308,000 in Economic Activity	37 Jobs \$551,000 in Payroll \$1,436,000 in Economic Activity	40 Jobs \$1,152,000 in Payroll \$3,289,000 in Economic Activity	178 Jobs \$4,109,000 in Payroll \$11.06M in Economic Activity
<b>113 Jobs, \$3.02M in Wages, \$7.03M in Economic Activity</b>			

Totals may not add due to rounding

## VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS AIRPORT

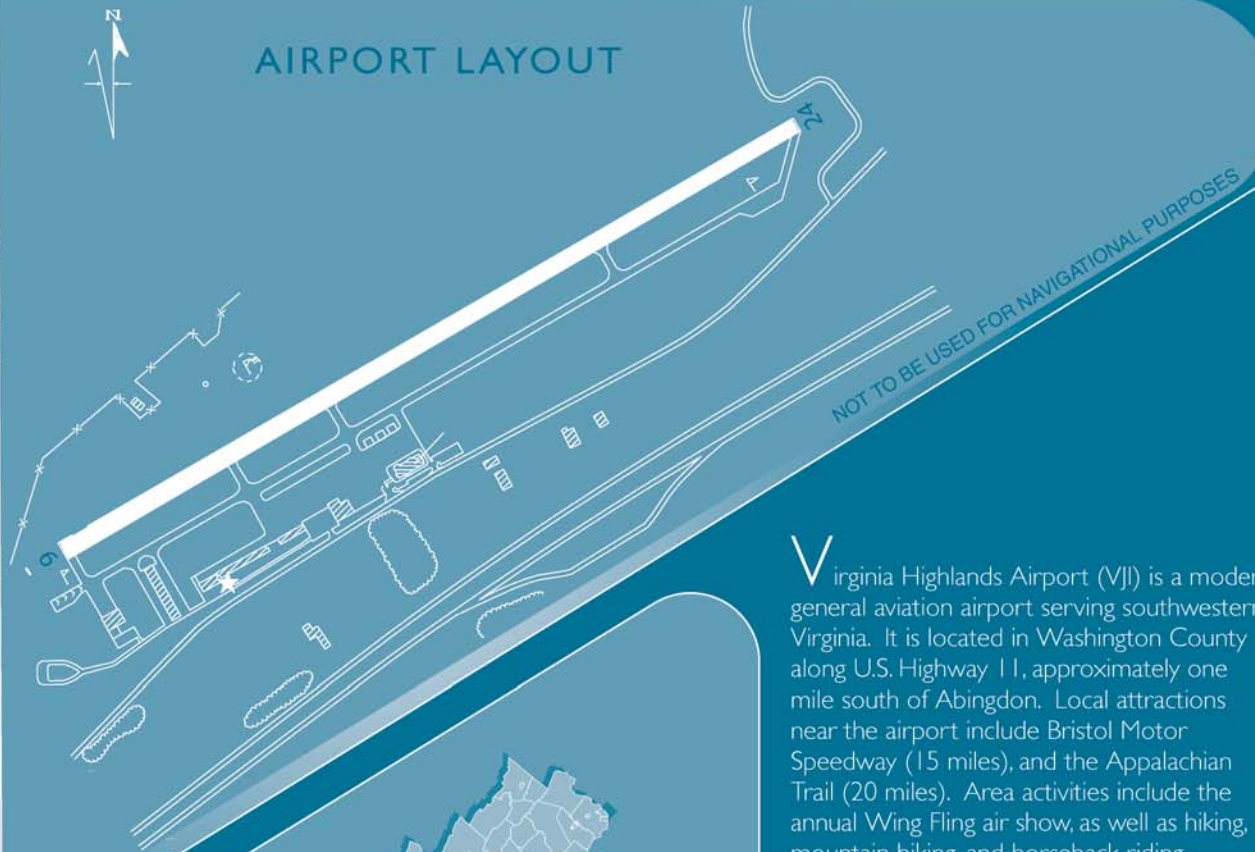


### An Assessment of Economic Impacts





## AIRPORT LAYOUT



Virginia Highlands Airport (VHI) is a modern general aviation airport serving southwestern Virginia. It is located in Washington County along U.S. Highway 11, approximately one mile south of Abingdon. Local attractions near the airport include Bristol Motor Speedway (15 miles), and the Appalachian Trail (20 miles). Area activities include the annual Wing Fling air show, as well as hiking, mountain biking, and horseback riding.

### Qualitative Benefits

Virginia Highlands Airport is home to a US Forest Service aerial fire fighting unit, a VA State Police reconnaissance plane, a MedEvac helicopter, and charter passenger and air taxi services. In addition, the airport serves as a vital link to the community, providing air freight shipment of just-in-time parts, critical medicines and vaccines, and bank drafts flown to the clearing house daily. The airport also impacts the local community by supporting search and rescue operations, recreational aviation, and law enforcement activities.

## VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS AIRPORT

*Prepared by the Virginia Department of Aviation for the Virginia Highlands Airport Commission*